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REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, FIG. 1 of the drawings, the specification and claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 28 have been amended, and claims 2, 10, 13, 16, 24 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-23, 25, 26 and 28 are pending and under consideration. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

I. Objections to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to as not including reference signs mention in the description.

The specification has been amended to change reference numerals 144, 131, 129 and 125 to 44, 31, 29 and 25, respectively. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Objections to the Specification

The disclosure stands objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to change "screws 11" to "screws 111" and a replacement sheet for FIG. 1 is included herein, changing reference numeral 11, designating the screws, to reference numeral 111. No new matter has been added. The amendment to the drawing and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13, 15-17, 19-21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671 to Lim ("Lim"). Applicants respectfully assert that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Lim and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a connector assembly that includes a first deflection portion extending outward from at least one of the first inner

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surface and the second inner surface along the top portion of the first deflectable clip, and a second deflection portion extending outward from the at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface to be positioned between the first arm and the second arm, the second deflection portion deflecting the connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm.

Lim teaches "a generally closed shape member defined by opposed free ends 31 and 33, which in the relaxed condition, define a gap . . . 29" (see column 4, lines 27-33 of Lim). The member is axially locked within the housing and includes inwardly extending projections 25a-25d that radially yieldably interfere with the path followed by an inserted lead.

Lim does not teach a first deflection portion extending outward from at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface along the top portion of the first deflectable clip, and a second deflection portion extending outward from the at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface to be positioned between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 3-9, 11, 12, and 14 dependent thereon and independent claim 15 and claims 17-23, 25, 26 and 28 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 4, 8-12, 14, 18, 22-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Lim does not teach or suggest a first deflection portion extending outward from at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface along the top portion of the first deflectable clip, and a second deflection portion extending outward from the at least one of the first

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inner surface and the second inner surface to be positioned between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 4 and 8-12 and 14 dependent thereon, independent claim 15 and claims 18, 22-26 and 28 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

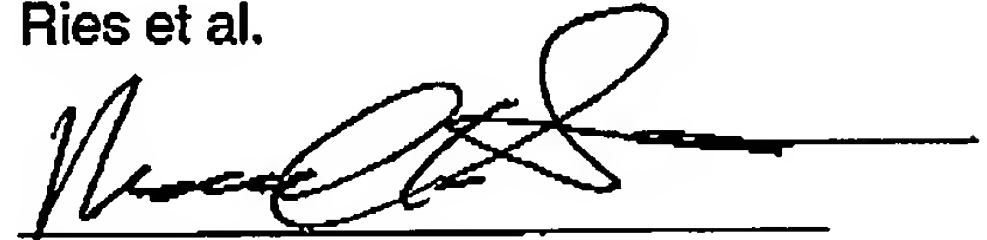
V. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Ries et al.



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